

Child Care

The Child Care Assistance Program provides funding to enhance the quality and affordability of child care available to families. It supports the goals of economic self sufficiency and child development by providing for the supervision, protection and well being of a child while the parent(s) is participating in an approved activity of employment and/or education.

Child Care Options

The selection of a child care vendor is the parent's choice; however the vendor must be licensed or certified to receive child care subsidy from the Department of Social Services. Vendor management is handled by the state. Licensed child care facilities are child day centers and family day homes; unlicensed but regulated child care centers are religious exempt child day centers, certified preschools, and voluntary registered. All facilities are required to abide by requirements set by the Department of Social Services. For further assistance in selecting child care, visit the Virginia Child Care resource and referral Network (VACCRRN) at <http://www.vachildcare.org/>.

Applicant Eligibility

To receive assistance an applicant must be a Virginia resident; child/ren must be a legal U.S. citizen; parent(s) must be working and/or attending school and meet the income guidelines. Applicants can access the Customer Portal at <https://childcareassist.dss.virginia.gov/access/> to be screened for eligibility or to complete the Child Care Service Application and Redetermination Form and to check the status.

The Family Services Specialist will contact the applicant for a face to face interview. Please bring with you the requested verifications and the following documentation:

- ☒ Proof of household income
- ☒ Verification of school attendance and class schedule of parent (if applicable)
- ☒ Birth Certificates of each child in the home
- ☒ Photo ID
- ☒ Child/ren's Immunization record

Effective December 1, 2011, the Virginia Department of Social Services implemented a new automated system called the Virginia Electronic Child Care (VA – ECC). This system streamlined the child care process for parents, providers and the local staff of Social Services. Visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/assistance.cgi> for additional information.

Vendors

For additional information on becoming a licensed or unlicensed vendor to receive subsidy from the Virginia Department of Social Services visit - <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.html>

The Vendor Portal for vendors currently participating in the Virginia Electronic Child Care (VA – ECC) system is <https://www.vaecc.org/eccpw/>. For questions email VaCMS@dss.virginia.gov